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MIXING/CHARGING PORT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a mixing/charging port for medical treatment, which is placed on a medical instrument to make it easy and reliable to mix/charge solutions from the outside of a feeding passage or, on the other hand, to collect solutions from the inside of the feeding passage.

10 2. Description of the Prior Art

 In infusing a drug solution or transfusing blood into a patient, it is often necessary to provide a main feeding passage with a side-infusing line in order to mix/charge different kinds of drug solutions or to collect the liquid flowing in the feeding passage as a sample. Conventionally, in this case, a
15 feeding passage of an infusion set provided with a rubber mixing/charging port (cock) for piercing by needles is used and solutions are mixed/charged by piercing the mixing/charging port with an injection needle, etc.

 However, in such a method, when piercing the site other than the predetermined piercing site of the mixing/charging port with the needle, the
20 liquid may leak from the site. Another problem is that the injection needle may be contaminated due to a working error, etc. In order to fix and hold a luer, etc. to be inserted ("an insertion member" will be referred to hereinafter), recently, the mixing/charging port capable of holding an insertion member has been considered. An example includes a mixing/charging port equipped with
25 a valve that opens when a male luer located at the tip of a syringe is inserted into the mixing/charging port to push the valve and which closes by itself when the luer is pulled out from the mixing/charging port.

 However, in such a mixing/charging port, it is necessary to hold a luer at the mixing/charging port regardless of the state in which the valve is
30 inserted (i.e., valve opens) or the state in which the valve is pulled out (i.e., valve closes). Therefore, there are the following various problems. More specifically, first, it is necessary to deepen a luer receiving part of the mixing/charging port. With such a shape, it is difficult to remove the liquid leaking from the valve, which easily may become unsanitary. Furthermore,
35 in the mixing/charging port having such a deep luer receiving part, the liquid may begin to be mixed/charged in a state in which the luer is not sufficiently inserted into the valve. In this case, if the amount of drug solution to be

mixed/charged is small, the administration of an effective amount of drug solution may not be carried out. Secondly, the structure of the valve becomes complicated, which may lead to increasing cost. Furthermore, as the structure of the valve is more complicated, failures are more likely to occur, and the valve is more likely to be broken.

On the other hand, in the conventional simple-structured mixing/charging port (for example, a mixing/charging port merely equipped with a disk-like valve made of an elastic member having a slit), it was difficult to insert a luer of a syringe into the mixing/charging port. If possible, it was difficult to hold the syringe reliably at the mixing/charging port. This is because the conventional disk-like valve is formed of a material having a large elasticity and has a simple structure in which the thick main body is merely provided with a slit, so that the valve exhibits a large resistance when the luer is inserted into the valve, and the valve is deformed largely when the valve holds the luer. However, if the thickness of the elastic member is reduced or a material having a small elasticity is used in order to reduce the resistance when the luer is inserted, the backflow prevention effect of the valve is lowered, which may cause liquid leaking.

In order to solve the above-mentioned problems, there has been a proposal of a mixing/charging port for medical treatment having a simple structure and capable of reliably holding an insertion member, which includes a disk-like valve having an insertion hole at the center, a seating for supporting the lower part of the periphery of the valve with the center of the rear surface side of the valve left unsupported, a cover for restraining the valve by covering at least the upper part of the periphery of the valve with the center on the front surface side of the valve left uncovered, and an anchor means for anchoring the insertion member to the mixing/charging port by inserting the insertion member into the insertion hole and by using the edge portion of the cover provided with a fitting hole.

Figures 1A, 1B and 1C are projection drawings from three directions of an example of a conventional mixing/charging port for medical treatment. That is, Figure 1A is a longitudinal sectional view of a mixing/charging port; Figure 1B is a cross sectional view of the mixing/charging port along line I-I in Figure 1A; and Figure 1C is a plan view of the mixing/charging port, respectively.

In Figure 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a disk-like valve, 2 denotes a cover, and 3 denotes an insertion hole. Furthermore, reference numeral 4

denotes an insertion member, 5 denotes an annular rib, 6 denotes a fitting hole, 7 denotes a seating, 8 denotes a passage, and 9 denotes a hook. In this structure, the valve 1 is sandwiched between the hook 9 of the cover 2 and the annular rib 5.

5 However, in the above-mentioned mixing/charging port for medical treatment, there has been a problem in that when absorbing air bubbles generated inside the mixing/charging port from the insertion hole 3, air bubbles that enter between the depressed part of the valve 1 and the inner part of the mixing/charging port cannot be absorbed efficiently.

10 Consequently, because of the presence of air bubbles that have not been able to be absorbed, there remains a possibility that an air bubble may be a contaminant when transfusing blood or infusing a liquid medicine into a patient, which may lead to a problem in that medical treatment cannot be carried out safely.

15 For example, when an insertion member 4 is inserted into a conventional mixing/charging port for medical treatment, the valve 1 is depressed and the insertion member 4 is held by the elastic force of the depressed part of the valve 1 and the fitting hole 6 as shown in the sectional view of Figure 2. However, between the tip portion of the depressed part of
20 the valve 1 and the seating 7, a certain region A is created. If air bubbles enter this region A, the air bubbles cannot be absorbed from an absorption port of the insertion member 4.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 With the foregoing in mind, it is an object of the present invention to provide a mixing/charging port for medical treatment capable of reliably absorbing air bubbles that have been generated in or contaminate mixing/charging port.

30 In order to achieve the above-mentioned object, a mixing/charging port for medical treatment of the present invention includes a disk-like valve having an insertion hole at the center, a seating for supporting the lower part of the periphery of the valve with the center of the rear surface side of the valve left unsupported, and a cover for restraining the valve by covering at least the upper part of the periphery of the valve with the center of the front surface side of the valve left uncovered, wherein a fitting hole defined by an
35 inner edge portion of the cover works as an anchor for anchoring an insertion member to the mixing/charging port in a way in which the insertion member is fitted to the fitting hole when the insertion member is inserted into the

insertion hole; and the tip of the depressed part of the valve is brought into contact against the inner bottom surface of the seating when the valve is depressed with the insertion member.

5 According to such a configuration, air bubbles generated inside the mixing/charging port can be absorbed to the outside reliably by inserting the insertion member. Consequently, it is possible to reduce the risk of air bubbles being infused into the patient when transfusing blood or infusing a drug solution is carried out. Therefore, a medical treatment can be carried out safely.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A is a longitudinal sectional view of a conventional mixing/charging port; Figure 1B is a cross sectional view of the mixing/charging port along line I-I in Figure 1A; and Figure 1C is a conventional plan view of the mixing/charging port.

15 Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view showing a conventional mixing/charging port for medical treatment.

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view showing a mixing/charging port for medical treatment of an embodiment according to the present invention.

20 Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view showing a mixing/charging port for medical treatment of an embodiment according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the mixing/charging port for medical treatment of the present invention will be described by way of embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings. Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view showing a
25 mixing/charging port for medical treatment of an embodiment according to the present invention. In Figure 3, reference numeral 4 denotes an insertion member, 5 denotes an annular rib, 7 denotes a seating, 8 denotes a passage and 9 denotes a hook. The mixing/charging port for medical treatment of Figure 3 is the same as in Figure 1 in that the valve 1 is sandwiched between
30 the hook 9 of the cover 2 and the annular rib 5.

The mixing/charging port for medical treatment of Figure 3 is different from that of Figure 1 in that the inner side surface of the seating 7 is formed to have the same shape as a state in which the depressed part of the valve 1 is depressed with the insertion member 4 inserted therein. In other
35 words, in the conventional mixing/charging port, since there is a certain space between the inner bottom surface of the seating 7 and the tip of the depressed part of the valve 1, an air bubble, which has been generated spontaneously or

is a contaminant due to the working error, gets into the space, thus making it difficult to absorb air bubbles from the insertion member 4.

5 In Figure 3, the inner side surface of the seating 7 has a concave shape that matches to the shape in a state in which the valve 1 is depressed by the insertion member 4. Therefore, the depressed part of the valve 1 enters the concave part entirely, and thus a space for air bubbles to be able to enter is not present. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the retention of air bubbles from occurring.

10 Furthermore, in order to facilitate the matching of the inner side face of the seating 7 to the shape of the depressed part of the valve 1, it is preferable that the deformation allowance of the material forming the valve 1 is sufficiently large. Thus, it is possible completely to avoid generating the regions in which air bubbles can be retained, and to carry out medical treatment more safely.

15 Furthermore, in order not to generate the region A in Figure 2, it is sufficient that the inner bottom surface of the seating 7 is brought into contact against the depressed part of the valve 1. Thus, it is possible to avoid generating the region A in which air bubbles are retained, thus making it possible to prevent air bubbles from generating.

20 However, in the case where there are air bubbles that have entered and remained, the above-mentioned configuration may obstruct the insertion of the insertion member. The inner bottom surface of the seating 7 may be provided with a groove for removing air bubbles and securing the passage. It is preferable that the groove is provided in the flowing direction of the mixing/charging port and the bottom part of the passage 8 (including the groove) is located at a lower level relative to the bottom surface of the seating 7. From the viewpoint of the manufacturing cost, it is preferable that the shape of the cross section of the passage 8 corresponds to a shape defined by a chord and a bottom part of the cross section of the arc at the bottom part of the cross section of the opening of the passage 8.

25 30 With such a configuration, the air bubbles present can be ejected to the outside through the passage 8 by the priming etc., or air bubbles are retained in the groove in a lower part of the insertion member. Thus, it is possible to absorb air bubbles to the outside of the mixing/charging port through the insertion member 4.

35 Therefore, with such a configuration, air bubbles generated in the mixing/charging port or present as a contaminant in the mixing/charging port

can be absorbed by inserting the insertion member deeply into the mixing/charging port. Therefore, it is possible to avoid the risk that air bubbles are infused into the patient when transfusing blood or infusing a drug solution is carried out.

5 Moreover, if the bottom surface of the seating 7 is located in an extremely high level, the depressed part of the valve reaches the bottom surface, which may obstruct the insertion of the insertion member. For example, as shown in Figure 4A, the distance between the annular rib 5 and the slit 3 is represented by R_1 , and as shown in Figure 4B, the distance
10 between the upper end of the fitting hole 6 formed with the cover 2 and the bottom surface of the seating 7 is represented by D_1 . In the case that R_1 is set to be about 3 mm and D_1 is set to be 5.3 to 5.5 mm, it is confirmed experimentally that as long as D_1 and R_1 satisfy the following relationship (Formula 1), the insertion member 4 can be inserted without difficulty.

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$$1.75R_1 \leq D_1 \leq 1.85R_1 \quad (\text{Formula 1})$$

20 The invention may be embodied in other forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The embodiments disclosed in this application are to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not limitative, the scope of the invention is indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are intended to be embraced therein.